



US Agency for International Development (USAID)
USAID/Georgia
Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE)

Program/Project/Activity Data

Activity/Project Name:		G2G Agreement between USAID and the Public Defender's Office of Georgia	
Assistance Objective:		DO2: Fragile Democratic Gains Consolidated Through Enhanced Citizen Responsive Governance IR 2.2: Accountability and Accessibility of Governance Institutions Increased.	
Program Area:		DR.2 Good Governance	
Country(ies) and/or Operating Unit:		Georgia	
Originating Office:		Democracy, Rights and Governance office	Date: 4/8/2022
X Original RCE		Original RCE LOP Start Date: FY2022	
<input type="checkbox"/> RCE Amendment		New Funding: \$500,000	
IEE/RCE History	DCN	LOP End Date	Total Funding (\$)
Original RCE	2022-GEO-006	FY2024	\$500,000
Contract/Award Number (if known):		N/A	
Sector Type(s) from the ECD Advanced Search Tab (https://ecd.usaid.gov)			
Major: Governance		Minor: Democracy, Human Rights and Governance	
Recommended Environmental Determination (s): Categorical Exclusion			
Additional Elements:			
X Government to Government		<input type="checkbox"/> Local Procurement	
<input type="checkbox"/> Donor Co-Funded		X Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis (included) Climate Change Vulnerability Rating: Low	

1. Background and Project Description

1.1 Purpose of the RCE

The purpose of the RCE is to cover G2G Agreement between USAID and the Public Defender's Office of Georgia (PDO) activity. The activity will be implemented from FY2022 to FY2024. The overall budget of the activity is \$500,000. The activities under the program do not have any impact on the natural and physical environment. Therefore, USAID/Georgia requests a categorical exclusion for this activity.

1.2 Project/Activity Description

With USAID support, the PDO will work to strengthen its oversight capacities and increase effectiveness, efficiency, and engagement with the people of Georgia. By utilizing a G2G

mechanism, USAID and the PDO will work together directly in partnership and funds will be maximized to strengthen the institution.

The goal of this program is for the PDO to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in Georgia. It is rooted in the theory of change that: IF the capacity of the public defender's office is strengthened and IF the PDO provides enhanced oversight of Government institutions' protection of human rights for diverse populations THEN public accountability of Government institutions will increase and human rights will be better protected.

This goal will be supported by three objectives, responding to the needs of the PDO.

Component 1 – Strengthened internal capacity to do more effective oversight of human rights protection in Georgia

1.1 Prevention of rights violations is prioritized within PDO

1.2 PDO's ability to respond to human rights violations is enhanced

Component 2 – Strengthened internal management processes and institutional capacities

2.1 Management tools and systems are institutionalized to ensure that the PDO can consistently deliver a high quality, impartial performance

2.2 Staff development processes are strengthened and institutionalized

2.3 Public transparency and accountability of PDO performance is increased

Component 3 - Improved strategic communications with diverse audiences

3.1 PDO staff at all levels are able to more effectively communicate with external audiences

3.2 External stakeholders better understand PDO's functions and human rights concepts

2. Environmental Analysis

Component 1 – Strengthened internal capacity to do more effective oversight of human rights protection in Georgia

Sub-activities	Categorical Exclusion Citation
1.1 Prevention of rights violations is prioritized within PDO	22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(ii)
1.2 PDO's ability to respond to human rights violations is enhanced	22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(ii)

Component 2 – Strengthened internal management processes and institutional capacities

Sub-activities	Categorical Exclusion Citation
2.1 Management tools and systems are institutionalized to ensure that the PDO can consistently deliver a high quality, impartial performance	22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(ii)
2.2 Staff development processes are strengthened and institutionalized	22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(ii)
2.3 Public transparency and accountability of PDO performance is increased	22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(ii)

Component 3 – Improved strategic communications with diverse audiences

Sub-activities	Categorical Exclusion Citation
3.1 PDO staff at all levels are able to more effectively communicate with external audiences	22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(ii)
3.2 External stakeholders better understand PDO's functions and human rights concepts	22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(ii)

2.1 Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis

In accordance with [Executive Order \(EO\) 13677](#) and [Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapter 201 on Climate Risk Management for USAID Projects and Activities](#), USAID must conduct climate risk management screening for all new strategies, projects, and activities.

For G2G Agreement between USAID and the Public Defender's Office of Georgia (PDO) activity Climate Risk Rating was defined as:

Low climate risk: Climate change is unlikely to significantly impact achievement of development outcomes relative to other stressors and development challenges.

3. Justification for Categorical Exclusion Determination

The activities described in this document will not have an effect on the natural or physical environment and are among the classes of activities listed in 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2). Therefore, under §216.2(c)(1), neither an IEE nor an EA will be required for these activities. Instead, a categorical exclusion threshold determination is recommended for the following identified activities under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2):

- All activities under §216.2(c)(2)(i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.)

4. Mandatory Inclusion of Requirements in Solicitations, Awards, Budgets and Workplans

4.1 The IP shall ensure annual work plans do not include activities that are defined as limitations, as defined in Section 5.

5. Limitations of the RCE: This RCE does not cover activities that:

5.1 Normally have a significant effect on the environment under §216.2(d)(1), including:

- Programs of river basin development;
- Irrigation or water management projects, including dams and impoundments;
- Agricultural land leveling;
- Drainage projects;
- Large scale agricultural mechanization;
- New lands development;
- Resettlement projects;
- Penetration road building or road improvement projects;
- Powerplants;
- Industrial plants;
- Potable water and sewerage projects other than those that are small scale.

In addition, unless the nature of the support is determined by the Resident Legal Officer or Office of General Counsel to fall under one of the defined categorical exclusions in 22 CFR §216.2(c)(2), this categorical exclusion does not cover activities that:

5.2 Support project preparation, project feasibility studies, engineering design for activities listed in §216.2(d)(1);

5.3 Affect endangered species;

5.4 Result in wetland or biodiversity degradation or loss;

5.5 Support extractive industries (e.g. mining and quarrying);

5.6 Promote timber harvesting;

5.7 Provide support for regulatory permitting;

5.8 Support agro-processing or industrial enterprises;

5.9 Result in privatization of industrial or infrastructure facilities with heavily polluted property;

5.10 Lead to construction, rehabilitation, or renovation of buildings or other structures;

5.11 Assist the procurement (including payment in kind, donations, guarantees of credit) or use (including handling, transport, fuel for transport, storage, mixing, loading, application, cleanup of spray equipment, and disposal) of pesticides or activities involving procurement, transport, use, storage, or disposal of toxic materials and /or pesticides (cover all insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc. covered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act); or

5.12 Procure or use genetically modified organisms.

Any of these actions, unless determined to qualify for a categorical exclusion under 22 CFR §216.2(c)(2), would require an IEE amendment with a Negative or Positive threshold determination approved by the Mission Director and with concurrence from the Europe and Eurasia Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO).

6. Revisions

6.1 Under §216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available that indicates that activities covered by this RCE might be considered major and their effect significant, or if additional activities are proposed that might be considered major and their effect significant, this categorical exclusion determination will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) with concurrence by the BEO and approval by the Mission Director. It is the responsibility

of the USAID Contract Officer's Representative (COR)/Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) to keep the MEO and BEO informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of this RCE.

7. Recommended Determination for Categorical Exclusion:

Approval:



 David Hoffman, Acting Mission Director

5/18/22


 Date



 Rusudan Tabatadze, Activity Manager/AOR/COR

05.18.2022

 Date



 Gocha Lobzhanidze, Mission Environmental Officer

5/18/22

 Date

Concurrence:

POOJAN BHASKER
 TRIPATHI (affiliate)

Digitally signed by POOJAN
 BHASKER TRIPATHI (affiliate)
 Date: 2022.05.22 20:28:07 -04'00'

 Poojan Tripathi, Bureau Environmental Officer
 USAID Europe and Eurasia Bureau

 Date

Distribution:

- Activity File
- AOR/COR
- MEO
- BEO
- ECD

Attachments:

Annex A: Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool

● **Annex A: Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool**

1: Components or Sub-activities	2: Time-frame and Geography	3: Climate Risks*	4: Climate Risk Rating*	5: How Climate Risks are Addressed in the Activity*	6: Accepted Climate Risks*
Component 1 – Strengthened internal capacity to do more effective oversight of human rights protection in Georgia	Georgia	In 2017-2050: The average annual air temperature throughout Georgia will increase by 1.3 C to 1.6 C, the number of summer days (above 25°C) will increase; the absolute minimum air temperature by 1 C is probable in the mountain zone, the overall tendency is for an increase. The number of frost days is decreasing throughout Georgia. The annual number of hot days will increase about 2.5 times. The percentage change of annual total precipitation is within a range from an 11% decrease to an 8% increase. A number of days of heavy rain will increase by 2 to 5 days; a decrease is more observable in the southeast, also in Adjara and a large part of Imereti; and an increase will take place in mountain regions, mostly within the Greater Caucasus.	Low	None	None
Component 2 – Strengthened internal management processes and institutional capacities			Low	None	None
Component 3 – Improved strategic communications with diverse audiences			Low	None	None

* means a required element, according to the Mandatory Reference